

## Plural childhoods and nursing care

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In a country of continental size such as Brazil, the presence of marked regional, fauna, flora and cultural differences is natural and exerts impact on the various ways of being and living in the Brazilian nation. In addition to these differences, class, race and gender differences also exist, and in a capitalist, racist, classist and xenophobic society, these become the core of inequalities, that is, a different way of being and existing in the world establishes hierarchical power relations, and those who are different are seen and treated as inferior.

And who is different? Different in relation to whom? Who are the ethnic models guiding us, those we want to be like? What are the values and paths that guide us? These questions may be at the root of the social problems we face. Even though we do not have clear answers, we are certain there are different ways of being born, growing up and dying that go beyond the regional and cultural differences of our people and are directly linked to the conditions of inequality we live in.

There are those who, even before being born, are already considered inferior, and whose “part of this latifundium” will be subordinate roles in the present and future, against the backdrop of lack of access to public goods and services, lack of education, food insecurity and the lack of housing for their parents or guardians, which puts their lives at risk from an early age. For a significant portion of the Brazilian population, such birth conditions generally persist throughout all stages of the child’s growth. In contrast, the standards and protocols developed for child care are generally designed based on parameters of normality of an idealized childhood. Cultural and ethnic differences also give rise to different conditions for being born and growing up. Being born into an indigenous, gypsy, *quilombola* (Afro-Brazilian residents of communities organized by fugitive slaves) and/or riverside community or in a large urban center will certainly determine different childhood experiences that will directly impact the living conditions of children and consequently, their pattern of human development. However, considering a single lifestyle and childhood as guidance for the metrics of what is called normal childhood conditions will certainly lead to a mistake.

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These differences become more pronounced when we come across racism and xenophobia, which are embedded in the society we live in and determine unequal treatment of those who are not white or cis, negatively affecting the health conditions of our children and the Brazilian population in general.

Therefore, it is necessary to understand the diverse ways of experiencing childhood that require equal care. To do so, we have to focus on knowing who our children are, who we are and where we keep our prejudices, so that we can identify and recognize the knowledge and power of different cultures. Based on this premise, we invite everyone to participate in the XI Brazilian Congress of Pediatric and Neonatal Nursing (CBEPN), which will have “plural childhoods” as its central theme and offer opportunities for reflection, debate and exchange of knowledge to strengthen nursing practice with a focus on diversity.